

**Remarks**

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 9, and claims 4 and 20 have also been amended. Claims 2, 9, 38, and 39 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 43-45 have been introduced, and they are dependent upon claim 1. Claims 1, 3, 4, 13, 14, 20-37, and 40-45 are pending, with claims 20-37, 40, and 41 being withdrawn. No excess claims fees are due with this submission.

Because claims 1 and 13 are allowable for the reasons noted below, rejoinder of the withdrawn method and composition claims is respectfully requested. New claims 43-45, dependent on claim 1, should also be joined with claim 1.

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (first paragraph) for lack of enablement is respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments. Because claim 1 now recites substantially the limitations of prior claim 9, which was not rejected, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are fully enabled. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-4 and 39 should be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1-4 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §112 (first paragraph) for failing to comply with the written description requirement is respectfully traversed for substantially the same reason noted above. This rejection of claims 1-4 and 39 should also be withdrawn.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(a), (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,355,610 B2 Chesebro et al. ("Chesebro") is respectfully traversed. Chesebro fails to teach or suggest an isolated prion-binding peptide ligand as recited in claim 1. For this reason, the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 39 over Chesebro should be withdrawn.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicants submit that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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